

Arbovale West Va/  
June 25th 1941.

RWB

Mr. Paul H. Becker.  
Charleston West Va.

Dear Sir:

I have at hand your letter of June 23rd in regard to Little Levels and Yew Mountain. The writer assigned to the Pocahontas County History, is asking for additional personal information about these places :-  
What has made them important; the people who have lived there; how they have been used; a description of the places.

Why were these places picked for the Worlds fair, besides their picturesqueness? ( pictures representing representing the County ) Make the remarks personal and Informal.

PHB

THE YEW MOUNTAINS OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY. The Yew range of mountains in Pocahontas is composed of many different mountains and ridges and is the result of a greatly dissected high plateau, made up of many small ranges, as Spruce Mountain, Kennison Mountain, Cranberry Mountain, Black Mountain, Turkey Mountain, Gauley Mountain Tea Creek Mountain, Red Lick Mountain, and many other ridges of minor importance

This range of mountains is situated in the the Little Levels District, and north-western part of the Edray District.

This range of mountains forms the water shed between the Greenbrier River and the waters of the Cherry River, Williams River, Gauley River, and Elk River which all have their source in the western part of Pocahontas County

The Yew Mountains extend from Greenbrier County line to the Thorny Flat or the waters of the Shavers Fork of Cheat river, but are not



situated on the Greenbrier River drainage side.

The Yew range of mountains have been heavily timbered, mostly with Spruce  
The old Pioneers of Pocahontas called the Spruce Pine, "Yew Pine," they also  
called the Hemlock Tree Spruce Pine; they had the pines criss-crossed; in their  
proper names; Many of the old land Grant calls, give the corners as a Yew Pine  
but when found, now is a Spruce. When they call for a Spruce pine a Hemlock is found.

The Name of "Yew" has been given these ranges on account of their evergreen  
appearance. The Black Mountain was named "Black" because of its dark Black Green  
color. Kennison Mountain was so named from the old Pioneer Kennison that settled in  
the Little Levels, and not many miles away. Cranberry Mountain was so named from the  
famous Cranberry Galdes situate on the head of the Cranberry River,

Turkey Mountain, because of so many wild Turkeys were found there. Gauley mountain  
was named from the Gauley River. Tea Creek Mountain was named from Tea Creek.

Red Lick Mountain received its name from the fact that the soil is of a redish  
color; And one of the old hunters of that section had a deer lick on this mountain  
and in order to designate it from other Deer licks called it the Red lick, and  
thereafter it was called Red Lick Mountain.

The timber operations of the Yew Mountains were sponsored <sup>and</sup> by ~~the~~ carried on  
by the Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company. With their Mills at Richwood.

The settlement in the ~~the~~ Yew Mountains is sparse; this entire section is now  
now mostly owned by the U.S. Monongahela National Forest. The up lands is used for  
grazing.



LITTLE LEVELS:- The Phrase "Little Levels" and the LITTLE LEVELS DISTRICT is entirely different, and doesn't mean the same thing. It must be here understood that the phrase "Little Levels" refers to a particular neighborhood in the heart of the Little Levels Magisterial District, which was formed shortly after the formation of Pocahontas County,

The Little Levels District as near as can be determined has an area of 192.68 square miles and is situated in the southwestern part of Pocahontas County, and takes the entire remainder of the County southwest of Edray District, and the Huntersville District. It extends southward from the divide between the waters of the Williams River and Middle Fork, including the water shed of the latter stream, Cranberry River, Cherry River, and Hills Creek, and crosses east of the Greenbrier River to include the area south of Beaver Creek, and west of North Fork of Anthony Creek.

This section or neighborhood called "Little Levels" is first found in the Greenbrier County Records; this section of Pocahontas County was first in the bounds Greenbrier County, which was formed from Botetourte, and Montgomery Counties in the year of 1777; and the early pioneers when they crossed the Allegheny mountains, searching for localities that were favorable for homes they came upon the section of what is termed the Little Levels, and farther down in Greenbrier they found a much larger and similar section, and they began to erect and establish homes at both places which was then in Greenbrier County. In order to designate the two, from each place, one was called the Little Levels, and the other the "Big Levels," which is some times referred to in the land records, as the "Great Levels."

The Big Levels is situated in Greenbrier County, The Little Levels is in Pocahontas County. When Bath County was formed it included the Little Levels in its bounds, then when Pocahontas was formed from Bath, Pendleton, and Randolph counties it included this fine farming section of the Little Levels and the name still clings to the neighborhood.



The largest comparatively flat area in Pocahontas County, and of a rolling nature is found in the Little Levels around and about the town of Hillsboro. This is a Lime Stone section and the most productive part of Pocahontas County especially for wheat and Corn; In the northern part of the County Limestone crops out in a narrow strip along the western side of the Greenbrier Valley, and south west of Marlinton it widens out which forms the Little Levels. This is a Lime Stone farming section, many sink holes are in this section, and many of the small streams disappear from view, to emerge nearer Greenbrier River.

The average elevation of the Little Levels is about 2400 feet, which is not too high for the maturing of most agricultural crops grown in West Virginia. Wheat growing is the staple crop in the Little Levels, along with Corn, and all kinds of hay, and vegetables. This farming section is hemmed in by the Droop Mountain on the West, and on the North by Caesar Mountain, and Cranberry Mountain. and is situated about two miles on the northwest side of the Greenbrier River

Hillsboro is situated in the heart of the Little Levels and is the oldest town in Pocahontas County from the standpoint of incorporation, having been chartered in 1886. (The town of Huntersville in the Huntersville District was incorporated December 18th 1822 by the Virginia General Assembly Acts of 1822-23 but charter was surrendered at a date unknown) Hillsboro is located upon a broad level rolling like plain in the Little Levels, and being situated in the finest limestone farming area in the County and being largely supported by the products from the farms.

For many years Hillsboro was the educational center of that region and supported the Hillsboro Academy, which was patronized by the County.

The old Brick Academy was first erected in the year of the 1840's. The name of the town was changed from Hillsboro to "Academy" but finally, went back to its former name Hillsboro.